

Holy Week Devotionals

By R. L. Tigh

Monday “Cleansing of the Temple”

Matthew 21:12-17; Mark 11:15-18; Luke 19:45-47

“And they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. And he was teaching them saying to them, ‘Is it not written, “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations?” But you have made it a den of robbers?’” Mark 11:15-18

The prophet Malachi, looking forward to Jesus’ day said, “And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold he is coming, says the Lord of Hosts.”¹ The first time that Jesus is seen in the temple is when he was a twelve year old, preparing for manhood, sitting at the feet of the teachers of the law. His parents finding him after a three day search asked him why he stayed behind in Jerusalem. Jesus answered them “Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?”² As an adult, Jesus again went to His Father’s House, this time to purify it and to redirect the people to prayer and worship of God. The cleansing of the temple is a picture of the work that Jesus would do for sinners as the lamb that takes away the sin of the world.³ Jesus is the great high priest whose one sacrifice of himself paid the penalty for the sins of those he came to save.⁴ “Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me...Behold, I have come to do your will, O God...And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”⁵

Let us pray that we will be cleansed as Christ cleansed the temple and let us direct our hearts to God in prayer and worship. “God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”⁶

Hymns

“Nothing but the Blood” by Robert Lowry, Trinity Hymnal page #307

“My Song Is Love Unknown” by Samuel Crossman, Trinity Hymnal page #182

The Baptist Catechism

Question: “How does Christ execute the office of a prophet?”

Answer: “Christ executes the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and spirit, the will of God for our salvation.”

Family Activity

Praying Hands Card: Fold a piece of paper in half. Place your hand with the pinky finger side along the fold. Trace your hand. Cut out the tracing, leaving the fold intact. The card should look like a single hand when closed and two hands when opened. On the inside of the card, write “My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations.” Decorate the hands with fingernails, knuckles, rings, etc.

¹ Malachi 3:1; ² Luke 2:49; ³ John 1:29; ⁴ Hebrews 10:11-12; ⁵ Hebrews 10:5, 7, 10; ⁶ John 4:24